



## Climate change and eHealth: A promising strategy for health sector mitigation and adaptation

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**Year:** 2012  
**Journal:** Global Health Action. 5

### Abstract:

Climate change is one of today's most pressing global issues. Policies to guide mitigation and adaptation are needed to avoid the devastating impacts of climate change. The health sector is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in developed countries, and its climate impact in low-income countries is growing steadily. This paper reviews and discusses the literature regarding health sector mitigation potential, known and hypothetical co-benefits, and the potential of health information technology, such as eHealth, in climate change mitigation and adaptation. The promising role of eHealth as an adaptation strategy to reduce societal vulnerability to climate change, and the link's between mitigation and adaptation, are also discussed. The topic of environmental eHealth has gained little attention to date, despite its potential to contribute to more sustainable and green health care. A growing number of local and global initiatives on 'green information and communication technology (ICT)' are now mentioning eHealth as a promising technology with the potential to reduce emission rates from ICT use. However, the embracing of eHealth is slow because of limitations in technological infrastructure, capacity and political will. Further research on potential emissions reductions and co-benefits with green ICT, in terms of health outcomes and economic effectiveness, would be valuable to guide development and implementation of eHealth in health sector mitigation and adaptation policies.

**Source:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3369672>

### Resource Description

#### Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Unspecified Exposure

#### Geographic Feature: ☒

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

#### Geographic Location: ☒

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

## **Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):**

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

## **Health Impact:**

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact

## **Medical Community Engagement:**

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

## **Mitigation/Adaptation:**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

## **Resource Type:**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

## **Timescale:**

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified